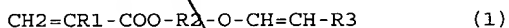


## CLAIMS

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A1

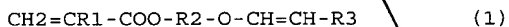
1. A vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester composition which comprises a radical polymerization inhibitor and a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue.

2. A vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester composition as in claim 1,

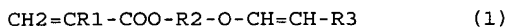
which comprises a radical polymerization inhibitor, a basic compound and a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue.

3. A method of producing the vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester composition according to Claim 1,

which comprises causing a radical polymerization inhibitor, or both of a radical polymerization inhibitor and a basic compound to coexist with a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



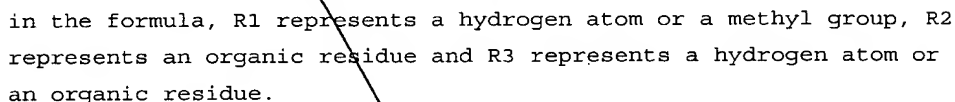
in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue.

4. A method of handling a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}^1-\text{COO}-\text{R}^2-\text{O}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{R}^3 \quad (1)$$
$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}_1-\text{COO}-\text{R}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{R}_3 \quad (1)$$
$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}_1-\text{COO}-\text{R}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{R}_3 \quad (1)$$

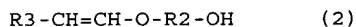
in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue.

which comprises handling a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester in a lightproof structure while keeping a molecular oxygen concentration in the gaseous phase within said lightproof structure at 0.01 to 22% by volume and said vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester being represented by the following general formula (1):


$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}_1-\text{COO}-\text{R}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{R}_3 \quad (1)$$

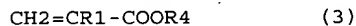
in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (2):



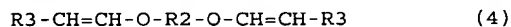
in the formula, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following  
general formula (3):



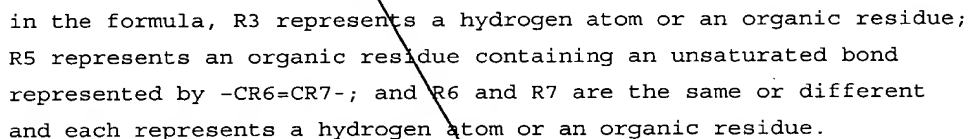
in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R4 represents an organic residue, and

said hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a divinyl ether represented by the following general formula (4):



a 2-substituted-1,3-dioxo compound represented by the following general formula (5):

an unsaturated bond-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (6):

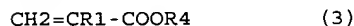

$$\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}1-\text{COO}-\text{R}2-\text{O}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{R}3 \quad (1)$$

which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (2):



in the formula, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

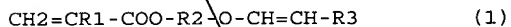
with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following  
general formula (3):



in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R4 represents an organic residue,

in the presence of not more than 5% by weight of water.

10. A method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



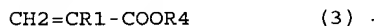
in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (2):



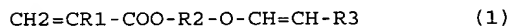
in the formula, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (3):



in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R4 represents an organic residue, in an atmosphere such that a molecular oxygen concentration is 0.01 to 10% by volume.

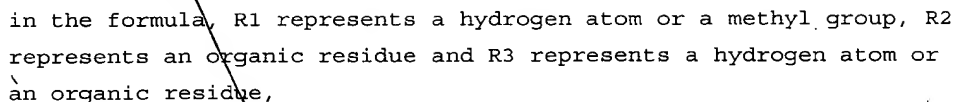
11. A method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



in the formula, R1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R2 represents an organic residue and R3 represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

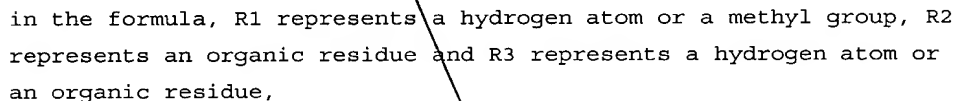
which comprises carrying out said method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester in a lightproof structure.

12. A method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester as in claim 11 represented by the following general formula (1):



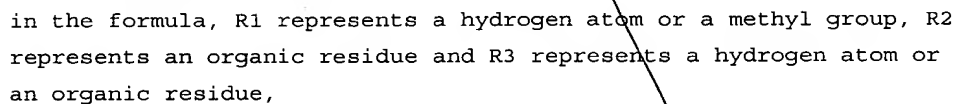
which comprises carrying out said method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester in a lightproof structure in an atmosphere such that a molecular oxygen concentration in the gaseous phase within said lightproof structure is 0.01 to 15% by volume.

13. A method of purifying a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



which comprises carrying out said method of purifying a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester in an atmosphere such that a molecular oxygen concentration in the gaseous phase in the purification system is 0.01 to 10% by volume.

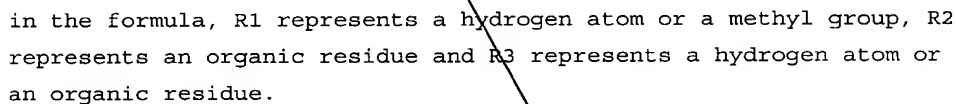
14. A method of purifying a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



which comprises carrying out said method of purifying a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester in a lightproof structure in an atmosphere such that a molecular oxygen concentration in the gaseous phase in the purification system is 0.01 to 15% by volume.

wherein said purification of a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic esters is carried out in the manner of distillation purification.

which comprises causing a radical polymerization inhibitor, or both of a radical polymerization inhibitor and a basic compound to coexist with a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein said purification of a vinyl ether group-containing (meth)acrylic esters is carried out in the manner of distillation purification.

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